

Message Text

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ACTION OPIC-06

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07

FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00 USIA-06 TRSE-00 XMB-02 SP-02

CIEP-01 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 L-03 FTC-01 AGR-05 /061 W

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P 301500Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY KIGALI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3865

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ALSO PASS OPIC AND IFC

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EINV RW

SUBJECT: RWANDA TEA PROJECT

REF: A. STATE 20138, B. STATE 18020, C. STATE 22343

1. BNR GOV. BIRARA CURRENTLY ABROAD. AMB DISCUSSIONS MINFIN, MINPLANS AND OCIR/T INDICATE NO PARTICULAR CHANGE FROM PREVIOUS GOR ATTITUDES OF INTENT PURSUE WERTHEIM PROJECT, CONTINUING IMPATIENCE AND EXASPERATION WITH LEGAL PROCEDURES. ONE SOURCE INDICATES CDC HAS AGAIN EXPRESSED PROJECT INTEREST BUT THIS NOT REELECTED IN HIGHER LEVEL DISCUSSION.

2. AMB INDICATED DURING DISCUSSIONS THAT PROJECT NOW ON VERGE IMPLEMENTATION AND THAT WERTHEIM MAY RETURN RWANDA IN FEBRUARY FOR FINAL DETAILS PROVIDED NO NEW PROBLEMS ARISE. THIS FACT DESIGNED PORTRAY MOMENTUM TO FORESTALL ANY RENEWED CDC ACTION.

3. EMB WILL BE IN TOUCH GOV. BIRARA UPON HIS RETURN RWANDA (NOW SCHEDULED FOR WEEK FEB 2) AND WILL REPORT HIS ATTITUDE. HOWEVER, IN VIEW HISTORY CDC-FED INTRIGUES, WE DOUBT ACCURACY REPORT CONTAINED REFTEL B.

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4. RE DOCUMENTS, EMB HAS LOCATED FILE COPIES (IN FRENCH) OF PRO-

POSED STATUTES FOR THREE COMPANIES BUT ARE UNCERTAIN WHETHER
PEN-AND-INK NOTATIONS INCORPORATE ALL REVISIONS.

5. AMB HAS MET WITH MINFIN TWICE DURING PAST WEEK TO REVIEW PROJECT.
AT JAN 29 MEETING, AMB REVIEWED MINFIN JAN 15. LTR TO WERTHEIM
NOTING POSSIBILITY OF AMBIGUITIES IN POINTS B AND C (KIGALI 46).
MINFIN REVIEWED WERTHEIM MATTER AND STATED INTENT WAS "...TO GIVE
AGREEMENT IN ACCORDANCE WITH MR. WERTHEIM'S PRESENTATIONS."
(MINPLANS, FORMER MINFIN WHO SIGNED ORIGINAL AGREEMENT, REVIEWED
MINFIN LTR AT AMB'S REQUEST. IN MINPLANS VIEW, MINFIN STATE "...
THERE NO CAUSE FOR ANXIETY" DOUBLE TAXATION SHOULD BE TAKEN AT
FACE VALUE.) AMB ALSO NOTED THAT MINFIN STILL SHOULD SEND LETTERS
OPIC AND IFC CONFIRMING TAX EXEMPTIONS AS PER PARA 18 OF ACCORD.
WHILE AGREEING DO DO SO (POSSIBLY THIS WEEK), MINFIN WAXED
FORTH BITTERLY OVER "INFINITY OF LEGAL MINUTIA" WHICH IS
"INCOMPREHENSIBLE". "AN AGREEMENT ALREADY EXISTS. WHY DO ALL OF
IT PARTS HAVE TO BE RESIGNED AND RESIGNED?" MINPLANS HAS ALSO
COMMENTED THAT "ALL THESE DETAILS OF ANGO-SAXON JURISPRUDENCE
ARE BEYOND US. THE RWANDAN MENTALITY IS TO GET UNDERWAY AND
WORK OUT THE PROBLEMS AS THEY DEVELOP".

6. RECOMMENDATION: IN THIS ENVIRONMENT, EMB SUGGESTS POSITION
CONTAINED REFTEL C "WERTHEIM NOT TO RETURN UNLESS POSITIVE
RESPONSE RECEIVED TO POINT E WERTHEIM MEMO" COULD BECOME STRAW
TO BREAK PROJECT'S BACK. WE RECOMMEND WERTHEIM RETURN RWANDA
WITHOUT SUCH GUARANTEE BUT BEARING LIST ALL "FINAL" DOCUMENT
REQUIREMENTS HIS BEHALF, IFC AND OPIC.

7. AMB ARRIVING DEPT (AF/C) FEB 2 AND AVAILABLE IFC/OPIC
CONSULTATIONS.

8. ALSO PASS WERTHEIM, PRESIDENT, TEA IMPORTERS INC.

9. DECLASSIFY UPON RECEIPT. HIGGINS

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Message Attributes

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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04 MAY 2006

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